

#3 8. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in claim 5, wherein the resin is a thermoplastic.

#4 11. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the volatile substances are solvents.

#5 14. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the coated biologically active particles are obtained by applying a solution of the resin dissolved in the solvent to the surface of the uncoated particles containing the biologically active substances and allowing the solvent to evaporate from the solution.

15. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the biologically active substances are fertilizers.

16. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the biologically active substances are pesticides.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

CHIKAMI et al.

Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No.: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: June 13, 2001

For: COATED
BIOLOGICALLY
ACTIVE PARTICLES.

**SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS AND
ABSTRACT AS PRELIMINARILY AMENDED**

Amendments to existing claims:

1. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles wherein uncoated particles containing a biologically active substance are surface-coated with a coating membrane and ~~the a~~ a concentration of volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 500 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.

5. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 4, wherein the coating membrane contains a resin.

6. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 4, wherein the coating membrane contains a resin and a filler.

8. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 5 through 7, wherein the resin is a thermoplastic.

11. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 10, wherein the volatile substances are solvents.

14. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 13, wherein the coated biologically active particles are obtained by applying a solution of the resin dissolved in the solvent to the surface of the uncoated particles containing the biologically active substances and allowing the solvent to evaporate from the solution.

15. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 14, wherein the biologically active substances are fertilizers.

16. (Amended) Coated biologically active particles as in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 through 14, wherein the biologically active substances are pesticides.

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CLAIMS PENDING AFTER PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. Coated biologically active particles wherein uncoated particles containing a biologically active substance are surface-coated with a coating membrane and a concentration of volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 500 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.
2. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 100 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.
3. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 10 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.
4. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 1 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.

5. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the coating membrane contains a resin.
6. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the coating membrane contains a resin and a filler.
7. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 6, wherein the filler is homogeneously dispersed in the coating membrane.
8. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 5, wherein the resin is a thermoplastic.
9. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic resin is one or more resin selected from among olefinic polymers or olefinic copolymers.
10. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic resin is one or more resin selected from among polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, ethylene-carbon monoxide copolymers, ethylene-hexene copolymers, ethylene-butene copolymers, or propylene-butene copolymers.
11. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the volatile substances are solvents.
12. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 11, wherein the solvents are one or more solvents selected from among carbon-based organic solvents or chlorine-based organic solvents.
13. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 11, wherein the solvents are one or more solvents selected from among toluene, xylene, tetrachloroethylene, or trichloroethylene.

14. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the coated biologically active particles are obtained by applying a solution of the resin dissolved in the solvent to the surface of the uncoated particles containing the biologically active substances and allowing the solvent to evaporate from the solution.

15. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the biologically active substances are fertilizers.

16. Coated biologically active particles as in claim 1, wherein the biologically active substances are pesticides.